

## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 15-20 have been newly added. Applicants believe that the Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. Basso  
Reg. No. 46,541  
P.O. Box 1135  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135  
Phone: (312) 807-4310

Dated: November 18, 2003